



Volume 39

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Established 1975

# THE Rowe Goal Post

July 2020

*Classic*



Annual Town Meeting by Janice Boudreau

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."  
—F.Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

## **Town Clerk**

Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

The annual town meeting was held on Saturday, June 20th. Though there was some spirited discussion, everyone remained respectful of each other and the protocols in place. It was great to see so many people coming out while respecting distances and all wearing masks. A big thank you to Chuck Sokol, who set up a sound system that was so good it could've picked up sign language! With minor changes, all articles passed. Detailed results are available on the website.

The annual town election occurred after the deadline but before the delivery of this issue. A complete list of results is available at town hall and on the website, and a summary will be placed in the August Goal Post. A reminder that all officers elected, even incumbents, need to be sworn in for another term.

At the annual town meeting, voters approved funds for an assistant town clerk position. My intention in asking for this position was to appoint an individual who can begin learning the job that will be able to fill in during absences, emergencies, and just some general projects/office work. The job description may change based on the election results, but in the meantime, I am seeking out a voter in town that would like to take on this part-time position. It comes with an annual stipend of \$1,200 (frequency of payment not yet determined) and would be expected to work between 6-7 hours a month on average. A more detailed job description will be available on the website.

If I am still clerk after June 27th, I will be working this summer to help bring people up to date on their ethics paperwork. The State Ethics Commission requires a biannual online training which will print out a certificate upon completion. A copy of this certificate needs to be given to the town clerk. This training needs

to be completed by all employees, elected officials, and appointed officials. I hope to begin tracking this so that we ensure the town follows state regulations. Elected and appointed officials belonging to a committee/board will also be given copies of the State's Open Meeting Law summary.

Regardless of how the election goes, thank you to everyone for making my first year as clerk a positive one. I now have a much greater appreciation for the work that goes into this office.

## **From the Town Hall**

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

### **OLD HOME DAY**

At their meeting on June 4th the Board of Selectmen voted to cancel Old Home Day due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to limit gatherings of people.

### **POSITION OPENING**

There is still an opening for the position of Emergency Management Director (EMD) for the Town of Rowe. This is a part-time position with a quarterly stipend. If you are willing to take training and serve the town in this very important position, please check out the website for details or contact me at 413-339-5520 ext. 11 or at [admin@rowe-ma.gov](mailto:admin@rowe-ma.gov).

### **APPRECIATION**

Thank you to John Magnago for his continued service to the town and its veterans. John has been caring for the veteran's graves by making sure that they have their flags and proper grave markings. In addition, he planted flowers at the Town Hall Veteran's Memorial and at the entrance to the town planter.

A big thank you to Danielle Larned who has volunteered her time to enhance the grounds at Town Hall by planting, weeding and a long overdue pruning of the bushes. The grounds look beautiful and Town Hall is better served

by having better airflow surrounding the perimeter as well as gave us a big morale boost.

### **TOWN MEETING**

The Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 21st will be remembered for its adaptation to the circumstances presented by the Covid-19 outbreak. It took place outdoors on the Rowe Elementary School grounds, determined to be the safest option possible for a gathering, by the Board of Health. Forty-Four citizens and 10 guests attended the event under a perfect blue sky day with white puffy clouds. Having a Sound Engineer who works for Bose as a Selectman proved to be fortuitous. Selectman Chair Chuck Sokol rigged up a sound system that was so outstanding with great quality that many commented after that it was the best sound at a town meeting to date! Appreciation goes also to Rowe Principal Bill Knittle and School Custodian Mike Armstrong, Superintendent Lance Larned and the rest of the DPW crew and Town Clerk Paul McLatchy III for all of their help with the rest of the set up. Also to Bob Clancy Moderator met with area town moderators to work out the best plan for the meeting and conducted an efficient meeting.

### **SHEILA LITCHFIELD RETIRING**

Sheila Litchfield, our Town Nurse for over 12 years, is retiring as of June 30th. I know that I speak for many when I say that I am happy and sad at the same time. I am happy for her, that she will have the time to focus on the many projects at home that interest her as well as spending time with her grandchildren. Having worked alongside Sheila for many years now and my appreciation and admiration for her has grown exponentially over time. That is the sad part, many of us will miss her very much as we have come to rely on her.



photo by Sue Williams

Annual Town Meeting



## Stipend Study Committee Volunteers Needed

At the annual town meeting, voters approved an article to “authorize and direct the Moderator to appoint a Stipend Study Committee of three (3) or five (5) voters to study stipends for elected town committees. For the purpose of this study, “committee” shall be defined as a public body consisting of three or more people elected for a defined term. No member of this committee shall hold an elected office, or be related (parents, children, siblings, spouse, and spouse's parents, children, and siblings) to an individual that serves on an elected committee. This committee will be responsible for compiling a report and making recommendations on matters related to stipends including, but not limited to, the following:

- The definition of a stipend for the purpose of paying committee members
- An objective method for determining whether a committee should receive a stipend or not.
- Which committees should or should not receive a stipend, and how to ensure that all committees are valued for their contribution to the town's well-being.
- An objective method of determining how much a committee should receive and the reasons for the amount.
- If a committee should receive a stipend, how much should they receive.
- Whether officers of a committee should receive more than other members, or receive a stipend if the committee as a whole is not recommended to receive one.
- Recommendations on how to address increases/changes to stipends in the future

- Recommendations for which person or body/bodies should be responsible for reviewing stipend-related matters in the future.

This committee shall submit a report to the members of all elected committees no later than January 31, 2021.

If you are interested in serving on this committee and are not related to an elected official, please contact Moderator Bob Clancy at [robertjclancy@gmail.com](mailto:robertjclancy@gmail.com) or 339-9918.

## Board of Health News Submitted by Joanne Semanie

In review of the past years monthly totals, we are happy to let all residents know that the amount of trash that has been brought to the Refuse Garden has been cut in half since the beginning of the sticker program. This is an amazing accomplishment and will help the BOH level fund their budget for trash. The rates for FY21 will almost double and the reduction has made this possible. Thank you everyone for your cooperation with this program!

The tags and stickers are available by contacting the Town Hall at 339-5520 or Joanne Semanie at 339-6667. New tags will be required beginning July 1st.

The transfer station attendants request that all recyclables be sorted before you enter the dump for disposal. This makes the line move along quicker and allows the attendants to be more helpful. If more bins are needed inquire with the attendant on duty next time you go.

## Assessor's News

Submitted by Rick Williams

### Projected FY21 Tax Rates and Average Single-Family Tax Bill

Projected tax rates and resulting average single-family tax bill—based on the results of the FY21 Annual Town Meeting—are presented below. Prior years' figures are also listed for comparison. These projections are based on the current (FY20) total town property valuation of \$515,427,089. Due to continuing COVID-19 related impacts on state budget there is great uncertainty about the level of state aid to be provided to the towns (via Cherry Sheet receipts) for FY21. A range of possible tax rates and average single-family tax bills are presented below which reflects 100% to 50% of pre-COVID projected state aid for FY21.

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 (est.)
Tax Rate - Residential	\$ 6.86	\$ 5.01	\$ 5.33	\$5.40 to 5.67
Tax Rate - Com/Ind/PP	\$ 14.73	\$ 8.02	\$ 8.53	\$8.65 to 9.08
Avg Single-Family Tax Bill	\$ 1,454	\$ 1,062	\$ 1,162	\$1,178 to 1,237

Note: To calculate your estimated FY21 tax bill, divide your parcel's total property valuation by 1000, then multiply by \$5.40 to 5.67 (projected range for FY21 residential tax rate). Your property valuation can be found on last year's FY20 tax bill or from the FY20 property value listing on the Assessor's page on the town website ([rowe-ma.gov](http://rowe-ma.gov)).

### Comparison to Neighbor Towns

To help keep things in perspective, the following table provides a comparison of last year's (FY20) residential tax rates, average single-family home values, and average single-family tax bills for some of our neighboring towns. [data from MA DOR Municipal Databank]

Town	Residential Tax Rate	Average Single Family Home Value	Average Single Family Tax Bill
Hancock	\$ 2.78	\$ 255,973	\$ 712 (lowest in MA)
Rowe	\$ 5.33	\$ 218,088	\$ 1,162 (2nd lowest)
Florida	\$ 8.42	\$ 164,391	\$ 1,384 (3rd lowest)
Erving	\$ 7.54	\$ 190,243	\$ 1,434 (4th lowest)
Monroe	\$ 15.08	\$ 109,642	\$ 1,653 (5th lowest)
Hawley	\$ 16.22	\$ 227,655	\$ 3,694
Colrain	\$ 19.93	\$ 185,700	\$ 3,701
Heath	\$ 22.25	\$ 175,758	\$ 3,911
Charlemont	\$ 19.51	\$ 205,079	\$ 4,001
Shelburne	\$ 13.98	\$ 286,856	\$ 4,010
Buckland	\$ 18.52	\$ 228,136	\$ 4,225
Ashfield	\$ 16.66	\$ 267,379	\$ 4,455
Greenfield	\$ 22.93	\$ 194,450	\$ 4,459
Weston	\$ 12.83	\$ 1,630,674	\$ 20,922 (highest in MA)

## Assessor's News - cont'd

### MGL Local Options Adopted at ATM for Senior Exemption Benefit Enhancement

Upon recommendation of the Board of Assessors the following Massachusetts General Law (MGL) local options were adopted at the recent Annual Town Meeting (Warrant Articles 29, 30, 31). These three local options provide benefit enhancements to our eligible seniors by allowing annual cost of living (COLA) adjustments related to senior (property tax) exemptions.

Adopted local option clause 17F, MGL c59, §5 which allows for annual COLA increases to the exemption amount granted to senior citizens and surviving spouses and minors under Clause 17D.

Adopted local option clause 17E, MGL c59, §5 which allows for annual COLA increases for the asset limits for determining if senior citizens and surviving spouses and minors qualify for exemption under Clause 17D.

Adopted local option clause 41D, MGL c59, §5 which allows for annual COLA increases to the income and asset limits for determining if senior citizens qualify for exemption under Clause 41C.

### Annual Permit Inspections

As part of the FY21 interim year update a review of open building permits will be conducted for the purpose of updating property cards prior to establishing property valuations for FY21. Normally the Assessor's Appraisal Consultant (Mayflower Valuations) has an individual drive around town in early July to inspect properties with open building permits. For this year, due to COVID-19 considerations, the Assessor's Office will plan to make phone calls to inquire about status of your open building permits. We will only consider site visits (exterior inspection only with facemasks and social distancing) for the more significant changes such as new home construction or additions, etc. Any site visits will be pre-arranged and coordinated with the homeowner. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

Please contact our new Assistant Assessor, Colleen Avallone, at the Assessors' Office at 339-5520 ext.17 or send an email to [assessor@rowe-ma.gov](mailto:assessor@rowe-ma.gov) if you have any questions or for further information.



Doe off Hazelton Rd. by Bob Clancy



## Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

**Library Hours:** Tuesday & Saturday 10-5, Wednesday 10-8

We miss all our wonderful patrons and we know in a blink of an eye we will be seeing each other each week again. In the meantime, if you need materials our online digital catalog is your source for all E –content-books, audios, magazines, and even streaming movies. Here is the link for the digital catalog <https://cwmars.overdrive.com/>

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

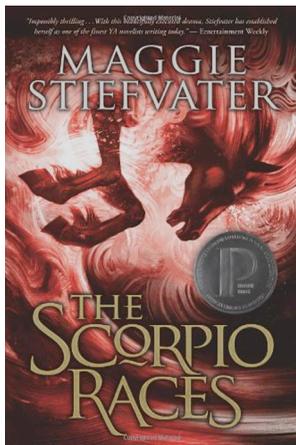
### My All Time Favorite Books

by Abby Lively



I've started re-reading the 7-book Crown of Stars series by Kate Elliott (I've just begun reading the third, "The Burning Stone," at the time of this writing). It's an epic braiding of several characters and storylines with plenty of intrigue.

As a sophomore in high-school I stumbled upon this series, thanks to the book-mobile. The author has several more shorter series that are equally engaging, including some for YA audiences.



"The Scorpio Races" by Maggie Stiefvater is a YA book that the Rowe Library owns. It's a very fun twist on the Water Horse myth set on a fictional island written with such life that you're almost surprised when you can't find it on a map. It's a new favorite of mine.

*What's your favorite book(s)???*



PELHAM  
LAKE PARK  
NEWS

-Submitted by Sean Loomis, Park Manager

Summer is finally here! The park staff has spent the last few weeks preparing and clearing the trails, which are now ready for recreational use. There have already been a number of people hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, and bird watching on both the trails and park property, and we invite you to come down as well! For those of you interested in using the tennis courts, they are open but in rough shape, so play at your own risk.

The park will be hosting two senior picnics this summer but because of COVID-19, they will be slightly different from previous years. The picnics will be held on Thursday, July 9th and Thursday, August 20th. Seniors who want to participate will have their food cooked for them and then delivered to their house. The deadlines to sign up are Monday, July 6th and Monday, August 17th. Please sign up by calling the Park at 339-8554 or by emailing [roweparkdept@hotmail.com](mailto:roweparkdept@hotmail.com).

The park staff will continue to maintain the trails and will also begin working on a bridge project soon. The project is focused on replacing the bog bridges on the Lakeview, Meadow, and Babbling Brook trails. Along with maintaining the trails, the park staff will be working to maintain the beach area and to enforce the new COVID-19 rules down at the lake. As a reminder, please practice social distancing while using the park facilities and interacting with other park users.

We would also like to remind you that beach stickers are required for Rowe residents to enter the park, and the park staff will be available to provide stickers for those who do not have one. Also, guest passes are required for guests coming to the park. The pass can only be used for one family at a time and guests cannot bring their own guests down with them.

**Yoga classes** sponsored by the Park Department will be at the beach this summer (weather permitting) on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM. Classes are free for Rowe residents but preregistration is required due to the Covid-19 guidelines of social distancing and limited group size of 10 people maximum. If interested, please email instructor Kate Peppard at [kate@highlandyoga.studio](mailto:kate@highlandyoga.studio) or call the park at 339-8554. A great way to start your day!

**The Rowe Summer Recreation Program** is back with a twist: in order to ensure everyone's health and safety, the four-week program will run at a distance from July 20th through August 13th! Participating families will receive carefully-made resources packets that will guide them through each themed week of the program.

Our themes, chosen to excite and inspire, are also designed to be accessible in your own backyard or at Pelham Lake Park. They are: Powerful Patterns, Inspiring Insects, Vile Venom & Terrific Toxins, and Wonderful Water. Participants will dig into one topic each week, learning from readings, field guides, observations, songs, nature journal prompts, stories, crafts, nature walks, science experiments, and more! For the four-week program, participants will also be able to borrow their own Nature Toolkit containing the essential supplies for any aspiring naturalist.

Our new Summer Recreation Director, Hannah French, brings her experience as a 3rd and 4th grade classroom teacher at Rowe Elementary School. She is a graduate of both the Environmental Science program at UMass Amherst and the Science and Environmental Education program at Antioch University of New England. She also draws on her years of experience as a Nature Camp Counselor at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst. She looks forward to seeing what everyone learns and creates this summer!

We hope that despite the remoteness of this year's program, participants will come away with a renewed knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

### **Community Forest Stewardship- Forest Planning Project Update - June 17, 2020**

We have exciting news to share- the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant (Mass EEA Funding) has been extended until September 30, 2020. This extension provides valuable time for our team to develop the set of forest stewardship goals and objectives for Pelham Lake Park Forest based on your input.

With that in mind, we wanted to give an update on our outreach and listening efforts so far, and also a few important dates on the calendar for moving this forward.

1. The initial survey has been a success - 27 people responded. Based on this, we presented our review and summary of the survey results at the first Rowe Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop. We compiled a list of possible Goals and Objectives from your community and started a discussion on Sustainable Forestry Practices (SFP's) that might be useful towards the achievement of them.
2. The First Workshop was a success- we heard loud and clear about what people value and appreciate in the community forests.

3. We also presented an educational article in the Goal Post on the mechanics of Forest Stewardship Planning and the need for consensus, or at least inclusiveness, with the Goals, Objectives, and SFP's embedded into a Forest Stewardship Management Plan.
4. Our ongoing outreach work will involve the following steps:
  - a) This update in the Goal Post and on the Town's website.
  - b) A simple, short follow-up survey that asks for an up/down assessment of each possible Goal and Objective, and the SFP's that may help achieve them (July 2020).
  - c) Advertising for this second survey about Goals, Objectives, and SFP's for Rowe's use of Pelham Lake Park (July 2020)
  - d) The second Rowe Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop in which you assist us to finalize the Goals, Objectives, and Sustainable Forestry Practices that will be included in the final Forest Stewardship Management Plan will be held via Zoom at 7:00pm on Thursday, August 13th. Zoom information listed below.
  - e) A final Goal Post article that describes the final recommendations, goals, objectives, and SFPs to get us to them will be published in August.
  - f) Open communication with you as this work develops. Our email addresses are: [wfrmanagement@gmail.com](mailto:wfrmanagement@gmail.com) and [abarrett@longviewforest.com](mailto:abarrett@longviewforest.com). You can also call Mary Wigmore at 413.628.4594 with questions.
5. The first draft of the Forest Stewardship Management Plan for Pelham Lake Park is coming along. By late-July, the Park Commission will review the first draft.
  - a) Then, access to these draft plans will be made available to the community via your Town website with a link for public comment.
  - b) Printed copies of the drafts will be available at Town Hall and the Park for review (if allowed within Phase 4 of Massachusetts re-Opening Guidelines).
  - c) In keeping with the spirit of community-based Sustainable Forestry Practices, we welcome and ask for your help in the completion of this important project.
6. Final draft of the Forest Stewardship Management Plan will be delivered to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for review and approval on September 30, 2020.

Thank you for your patience with us as we have learned who you are and what it is that you value about your forest. We are still relying on your guidance for the completion of a useful, implementable Forest Stewardship Plan based on your community vision.

Long View Forest-Alex Barrett

Wigmore Forest Resource Management- Mary K. Wigmore

For our Workshop on August 13 at 7:00pm- Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95507633455>  
Meeting ID: 955 0763 3455 Or call: +1 646 558 8656 US

## Summer in Rowe at Rocklawn- 1896

-Submitted by Joanne Semanie



This story was written by Fredericka Farley, niece of Mary Eliot Wells Farley describing the first summer she spent in Rowe. She submitted her story to Helen McCarthy for consideration in printing the Bulletin in 1970.



“My aunt, Mrs. Mary Eliot Wells Farley and her family were settled for the summer in their home, Rocklawn, at Rowe Center. The summer family was a large and active one. Besides my aunt were her sons, Louis and Eliot; her daughter, Beth; two nieces, Eleanor Wheeler and myself, Fredericka Farley. There were also two friends of the boys, Frank Hastings and Gordon Donald. The summer family was complete by July 1 and carried through until early September when the young people had to leave for school.

Rowe Center in 1896 was a busy place.

Our house was just where Ford Hill and Middletown Road cross. The house is still a lovely one, originally built by the late Judge Wells for the use of the Unitarian ministers and acquired by the late Mrs. Farley, his daughter, upon his death. Ford Hall stood just diagonally across the corner. It was no longer used even then, but it was an interesting old building and in quite good condition, all windows and doors intact.

On Ford Hill Road east from The Center was the old Unitarian Church (1843) where services were held by the minister, Rev. Edward Pressy and where a large congregation gathered every Sunday. A little farther east was Mr. Nat Rice's nice old white farmhouse (Levitre). Mr. Rice was a carpenter by choice and did some beautiful woodwork. He was a good neighbor to the Farley household.



On the short piece of Middletown Road that ran up the hill to the Wells Farm (Jim Williams) from The Center, there was only the Farley barn on the east side of the road. A little farther up on the west side was a lovely old red farmhouse snuggled down on the hillside. It looked small from the road, but it had many rooms and fireplaces. There was no through hall, but the labyrinth of passages ran through the house from which the rooms opened. A brook ran down the hill on the west side of the house giving a cheerful cooling sound in the summer. At one time the Rowe Post Office was located in this house. In 1896 the house was owned by a Boston family but it was occupied by Mr. Pressy and his wife.

We young people had regularly assigned daily duties. Right after breakfast the boys had the stable to care for; feed and water Topsy, the horse and Maude the pig (probably the garbage disposal); clean the stable; brush and comb Topsy; check and clean the harness and such. I am not sure what extra care Maude received, but she had some extra attention for she was a cheerful and friendly creature who was loaned to us for the summer by Mr. Edward Wright and returned to him in the fall, well and fat. The Wright Farm was just down Middletown Road. (Semanie)

After the stable had been cared for the boys had to collect and carry out the used water from the bedrooms (no modern plumbing). They refilled the pitchers in the bedrooms with freshly pumped well water. They chopped the kindling wood and filled all the wood boxes.

At this time the water supply at Rocklawn was quite inadequate and we carried all our drinking water from the well over behind the Hall. Later Aunt Mary bought the property; I always thought she did so to insure a good water supply at the house. She had the water piped to our dining room and we always had a full supply of fresh, cold drinking water. The old well has since been covered over and Rocklawn supplied with a well of its own.

While the boys were doing this the girls had to wash the breakfast dishes and the dinner and supper dishes at the proper time. They made the beds, dusted and tidied up the rooms, cleaned and refilled the oil lamps that were used the night before. All this was done before dinner was ready at noon. Miss Sadie Waste was our friend and cook that summer of 1896.

The food question, as I look back, must have been interesting . . .”

In the next issue we will see how food was handled in the summer of 1896 without power and refrigeration.

Something other than COVID-19 to think about:  
**Protect yourself from tickborne disease this season**

Submitted by Sheila Litchfield, RN, Town Nurse

Ticks feed on the blood of animals (such as rodents, rabbits, deer, and birds), but will bite humans too. Ticks live in grassy or wooded areas, or on the animals themselves. Ticks can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases like Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis and tularemia. Many of these illnesses can be treated effectively when caught early, so see your doctor right away if you have a fever, rash or flu-like symptoms after being in tick-infested areas. Frequent tick checks increase the likelihood of finding a tick before it can transmit disease.

**Protect yourself:**

Treat your clothing and gear with permethrin

Tuck your pants into your socks or boots to prevent ticks from crawling up pant legs.

Shower after returning from the outdoors.

Perform daily tick checks.

If you see a tick, remove it immediately using tweezers or a tick removal kit.

**How to safely remove a tick:**

The best method for removing ticks is to grasp it with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull up gently. Never use gasoline, kerosene, petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, or matches to kill or drive a tick out once it has been embedded.

**Ticks and tickborne diseases in the United States:**

The most common ticks in the United States are the black legged ticks (which can carry the organisms known to cause Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan disease), Lone Star ticks (which can carry the organisms that cause ehrlichiosis, tularemia and the Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI)), and American dog ticks (which can carry the organisms which cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia).

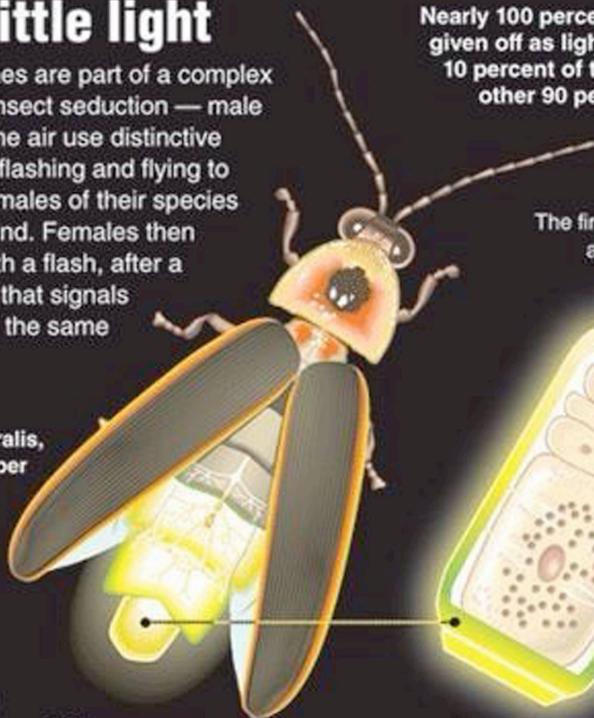
Many tickborne diseases, such as Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever can be treated effectively if caught early. Be sure to mention to your doctor any history of tick bites, or outdoor activities where you might have been exposed to ticks. Many people who become ill do not even remember seeing a tick.



## This little light

Firefly flashes are part of a complex system of insect seduction — male fireflies in the air use distinctive patterns of flashing and flying to signal to females of their species on the ground. Females then respond with a flash, after a set interval that signals they are of the same species.

*Photinus pyralis*, the “Big Dipper Firefly”



Nearly 100 percent of the flash’s energy is given off as light; in a standard lightbulb, 10 percent of the energy is light and the other 90 percent is given off as heat.

### How it works

The firefly’s light is produced during a chemical reaction. The light-emitting organ consists of three layers:

Reflector

Light cells, where reaction takes place

Transparent exoskeleton

### Distinctive flash patterns of five North American fireflies:

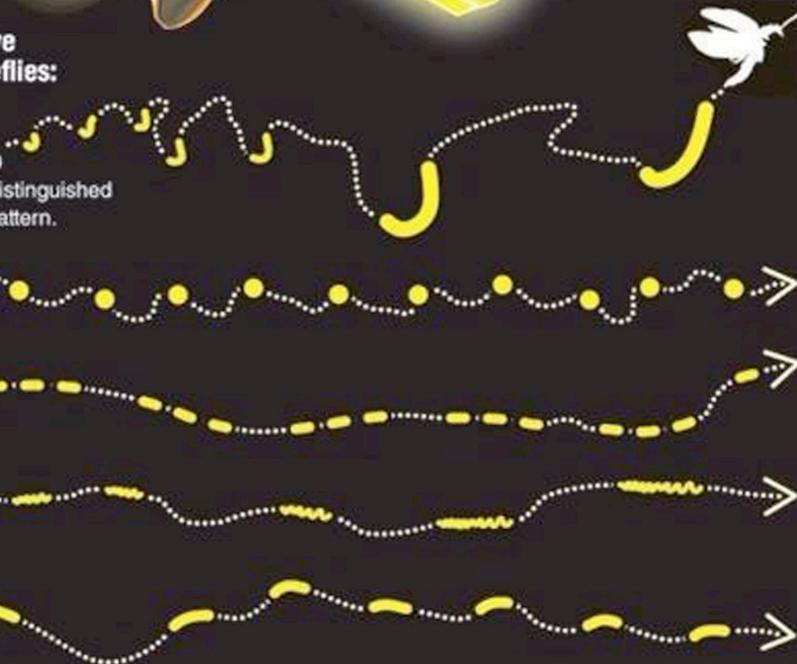
*Photinus pyralis*, the most common of 1,900 species of fireflies, is distinguished by its J-shaped flash pattern.

*Photinus marginellus*

*Photinus consimilis*

*Photinus granulatus*

*Photinus collustrans*





It's hard to believe that our school year is over. From the first day of school in August to the socially-distanced graduation ceremony for our graduates, it's been a year like no other. But it has reinforced my belief that Rowe students, families, and staff are a gritty bunch, creative, optimistic, and resilient. Here are some of the highlights that stand out to me:

- The first day of school, as the students walked in. They were excited to see their friends again, eager to get going. It's always a magical day in any school.
- Trying to learn all the new students' names as quickly as possible, then getting to know what a fun and funny bunch of kids we have!
- Observing in our various classrooms, seeing what a caring and professional group of teachers and staff we have at the school, and how they worked with each and every student to bring out their best.
- Meeting so many parents, guardians and other family members at our Open House was a treat after getting to know the students.
- Getting outside for Forest Fridays, as much as possible, but then...
- Dealing with EEE, remember that?!
- Family conferences!
- The amazing amount of work that the PTP puts into all the events they organize, and the fundraising that they do.
- The Cultural Study unit where we learned about Indonesia through the mini-courses, the work in classrooms, the delicious community lunch, a visit to Smith College, and the amazing performance.
- Report Cards – the amount of time and care the teachers put into the comments that accompany our report cards showed me how deeply the teachers knew the students and how they cared enough to communicate that knowledge to the families.
- The Ski Enrichment Days at Berkshire East – the amount of work from staff and volunteers to

make it happen was impressive to be a part of.

- Everything changed on Friday, March 13th, when schools closed for what we thought would be three weeks, but turned into three months.
- The staff, students, and families adapted as best we could to the new concept of remote learning, which was easy for some, and a challenge for others, due to availability of computers, wifi quality, working parents, the number of, and age of, students in the household, as well as a myriad of other factors.
- The staff really stepped up, figured out what we needed to do to support the learning of each student and how to support their family, and worked to provide remote or in-person instruction as needed.
- The families also worked hard to take over the role of in-person educator, not an easy job while trying to maintain a household and work as well.
- Some of the things we missed this year due to the shutdown include the annual Spaghetti Supper, MCAS tests (no one missed this too much), Forest Fridays in the spring - a beautiful time to be in the Park, so many indoor and outdoor projects in all the classes from Preschool to 5/6, the annual Nature's Classroom trip, the Talent Show, Primary Class play, Field Day, and much more.
- We ended the school year with an online send-off for the graduating 6th graders, and a socially-distanced graduation, trying to maintain as many of the traditions as possible for the students, even if they had to be adapted to the new reality.

Thank you to all the members of the Rowe School community: staff, school families, community members, volunteers and everyone who helped us support our students' learning, and to the Town of Rowe for supporting the school at Town Meeting. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. Thank you as well to the Rowe School Committee, Susie Zavotka, Matt Crowningshield, and Mary Paige. Thanks also to John Franzoni, Jen Macksey, Debbie Rosselli (congratulations on your retirement, Deb!) and everyone in the North Berkshire School Union Central Office who helped make this year a supportive and positive one.

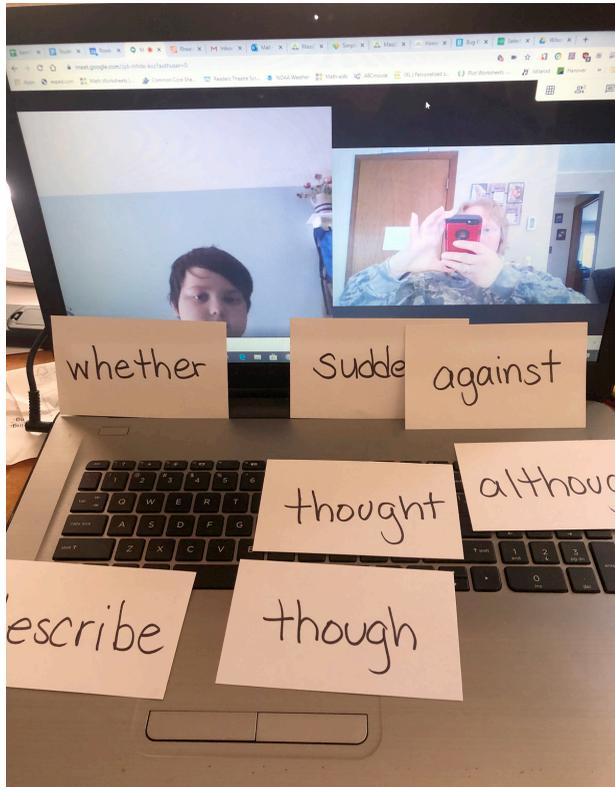
This summer is all about planning how to open safely when the new school years starts. We've received initial guidance from the state, and I'm confident we will be able to start school with everyone in the school, though the set-up will likely be a bit different. Summer School is also happening, it will begin July 7th and will continue through July 30th, primarily with remote learning.

I'm excited about the upcoming school year, I know this is the right group to handle any challenge in a positive and child-based way, As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me at 413-512-5201. You can also email me at [wknittle@roweschool.org](mailto:wknittle@roweschool.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

-Submitted by Bill Knittle



Rowe 6th grade graduates (l-r) Kayauna Tanner, Alexandra Rougeau, Addison Loomis, Kiaya Lizak, Lillian Labelle, Beck Gritzner, Kameron Crowningshield. (missing) Noah Sprague, Malachi Putnam



Rowe School student Brayden Brisson engages in a virtual game of "Sight Word I Have, Who Has?" with Rowe teacher Kerri McLatchy during remote learning this spring



Rowe school student Evelyn Lane (right) arrives on horseback for a socially-distanced Math lesson with Rowe teacher Patricia Tierney, accompanied by her mother, Molly, and younger brother Walker.

# Quarantine Smartwatch



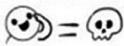
Countdown until  
quarantine ends:

*Eleventy months  
two milliminutes,  
nine lightyears,  
and three giga-shirts.*

It's always 4pm!



Count the steps you took  
walking from the mattress to the  
toilet and then back to the  
mattress again.



**Gentle reminder!**

Every time you touch your face,  
you are risking death.



You have reached your  
daily stare goal

- ✓ Stare longingly out the window
- ✓ Stare at your dog
- ✓ Stare at your hairy torso in the mirror
- ✓ Stare at the wall



Get constant notifications from friends!

All of whom are building gazebos out of reclaimed wood and writing best-selling memoirs, meanwhile you are lying sideways on a dirty couch staring at an empty box of Cheddar Bunnies while replaying old episodes of Frasier in your head.

The Oatmeal

## BIGFOOT spotted!



Photo by Rick Williams

Bigfoot was spotted by Rick Williams & Laurie Pike while kayaking on Pelham lake. He was on the shore opposite from the Atwoods...probably needed to cool off in the hot June weather!

## Praying

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

-Mary Oliver



## The Rowe Center

WORKSHOPS • RETREATS • SUMMER CAMPS

The Rowe Center is pleased to offer residents and those who work for the town the opportunity to experience one of our weekend workshops once a year free of charge. For more information about programs. or to register, please go to our website [www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org) or call our registrar at 339-4954.

Due to the importance of abiding by the CDC and the governments's recommendations regarding social distancing, the Rowe Center will not be holding any in-person camps this summer. Check our website, [www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org) for updates as the situation evolves.

We would like to thank the Rowe police department and Rowe fire department that gave us help in our time of need. Scott is doing great now. again thank you all

God bless - The Boutwells

Open letter to Rowe residents from your Town Nurse

If you have not already heard, I am retiring after 12 plus years serving as your Town Nurse. The Board of Health is actively seeking qualified candidates and I anticipate being able to help orient your new Town Nurse sometime in July.

I want to thank you for the time I've spent with you and to say that I will miss you all – and that I hope to see you at Old Home Days, Heath Fair, Avery's or Good Neighbors, once the world gets back to "normal". Stay safe!

Sincerely,  
Sheila Litchfield RN

Congratulations Justine!



Lt. Col. Justine S. Krumm, U.S. Army, graduated from the United States Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with a master's degree in Strategic Studies on June 5, 2020.

Commencement guest speaker was Gen. Paul M. Nakasone, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and Director of National Security Agency. A 2007 grad of the Army War College, Nakasone spoke about strategic leadership challenges in an era of evolving threats.

The U.S. Army War College's 10-month curriculum educates and develops senior military officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, as well as senior foreign military officers and civilian officials from a variety of federal agencies, to serve in strategic level command and staff positions worldwide.

Lt. Col. Krumm is a native of Rowe, Ma, and commissioned into the Army in 1999 from Norwich University. Following the Army War College, Justine and her family will head to Fort Gordon, Georgia.

While at the Army War College, Justine achieved Distinguished Graduate honors and completed a specialty program in Strategic Cyberspace Studies.

United States Army War College Hometown News Release



photo by Meredith Sokol



Io finds a bullfrog  
photo by Meredith Sokol

## Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mulette

- July**      5 Worship & Praise Service  
& Observance of The Lord's Supper  
12 Worship & Praise Service  
19 Worship & Praise Service  
26 Worship & Praise Service

**Bible studies** are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and are currently being done via phone conferences; studies will be held on Wed., July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

## July Birthdays

- 3 - Emma Poplawski
- 6 - Chuck Sokol
- 7 - William Reardon
- 8 - Jaye Brink
- 8 - Sara Paige
- 9 - Terry Veber
- 10 - Claudine Poplawski
- 15 - Robert Markert
- 15 - Rosemary Gordon
- 15 - Stephen Cadarette
- 17 - Sandra Donovan
- 19 - Matthew Demarey
- 20 - Brad Rice
- 21 - Bob Dykeman
- 21 - Teddy Palmer
- 21 - Rachel Holbrook
- 21 - Willian Parent
- 23 - Clayton Miller
- 23 - Dean Coulombe
- 24 - Jason Lively
- 26 - MaryJo Williams
- 26 - Maeve Gallagher
- 27 - Will Booth
- 27 - David Lenth
- 27 - Ed Daviau
- 28 - Lynne Shulda
- 28 - Kerri Mclatchy
- 29 - Chris Brown
- 29 - Kelly Zavotka
- 29 - Colleen Avallone
- 30 - Rebecca Richardson
- 30 - Kurt Shippee

## Town Services

<u>Accountant</u>	Wed	9:00-12:00 (or by appt)	339-5520 x12
<u>Admin Assistant</u>	M,T,Th,F	8:00-12:00,12:30-4:30	339-5520 x10
<u>Assessor's Clerk</u>	Monday	3:30-5:30pm	339-5520 x15
<u>Fire Station</u>		Emergency - 911	339-4001
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Mon-Thurs	9:30-5:00	339-5520 x11
<u>Fitness Ctr</u>	Mon-Fri	8:00-5:00	339-5520 x21
<u>FRTA Sr. Bus</u>	Tuesdays	9:00	774-2262 x103
<u>Historical Society</u>	(by Appt)		339-4238
<u>Library</u>	Tues, Sat	10:00-5:00, Wed 10:00-8:00	339-4761
<u>Park</u>	Mon- Friday		339-8554
<u>Police Dept</u>	Wed	5:30-7:30pm	339-8340
<u>Post Office</u>	Mon-Fri	12:15-4:15, Sat 8:30-11:30	339-5390
<u>Rowe School</u>	Mon-Friday	8:00-3:15	512-5100
<u>Tax Collector</u>	Wed	8:00-2:00	339-5520 x19
<u>Town Clerk</u>	M,T,Th,Fr	7:00-8:00am, 4:30-5:30pm	339-5520 x14
<u>Town Garage</u>	Mon-Thurs	6:30-4:30	339-5588
<u>Town Nurse</u>	Mon,Wed,Fr	9:00-5:00	339-5520 x20
<u>Transfer St.</u>	Wed	7-10am, 4-7pm	339-0216
		<u>Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>			339-5520 x16

The Rowe Goal Post  
P.O. Box 462  
Rowe, Massachusetts 01367

## **The Rowe Goal Post**

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the first of every month with paper copies sent out by mail the first week

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exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.'

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Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that  
they will appear in the next issue.

Please e-mail all items to:  
[GoalPostEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GoalPostEditor@gmail.com)

Please send only high resolution images (do not resize).

If you have a question about your subscription or want to make a change to the mailing list,  
please contact the Town Administrator at:

(413) 339-5520 x11  
[admin@rowe-ma.gov](mailto:admin@rowe-ma.gov)

Seasonal residents MUST notify the Administrator of any change in address.